Weisberg criticizes Posner for ignoring what Weisberg wrote in Whitewash concerning "proof" that Oswald carried the rifle into the book depository (Weisberg claims no such thing is proven) (p. 101). Weisberg continues in that chapter (VII) by discounting Posner's proof and conclusions regarding the rifle itself, its alleged "packaging" and where it was found.

There is a liberal sprinkling of quotes from the Warren Commission, and, as is Weisberg's custom, from his previous books on the issues that Posner raises. Throughout Weisberg contends that if Posner had read what he says he read, of Weisberg's books and the Warren Commission, that he could not conclude what he has concluded. In that way, Case Open is a continuation of his other works and should be read with them.

Case Open is consistent with themes in Weisberg's work over the past thirty years. The first is that, despite great temptation that there must be for someone of Weisberg's stature on this subject (a temptation most others have not resisted, to their financial pleasure), Weisberg has consistently refused to speculate on who actually was behind the murder of the President. Secondly, as follows from the first theme, Weisberg is meticulous in his documentation and insists on it from others in the field, including especially Posner. Third, Weisberg has consistently stated to me that he doubts that the case will be solved because "the trail is cold," but that the evidence closest to the event is the best. Thus, Weisberg has consistently used the Warren Commission testimony to disprove its own conclusions about the murder.

This book is a valuable addition to the body of writing on this subject. Weisberg did not write it for profit, as he did not have a written contract with Carroll & Graf for its publication, and had no formal agreement on what he should be paid. It is valuable because it confirms that Weisberg's work of nearly thirty years ago is still solid. It is valuable because he has taken the time to actually read and analyze Posner's references and finds them clearly deceiving and inaccurate, something that was not apparently done by Random House or U.S. News.

And that is not all. Being prepared for publication now by Carroll & Graf is Weisberg's Never Again, tentatively due out in September of this year. It will primarily deal with JAMA's involvement in this case and will, I believe hint, by asking a question, at Weisberg's thinking about who may be behind the assassination. In addition, Carroll & Graf has published a welcome volume for beginners on the subject entitled Selections From Whitewash (1994), co-published with Richard Gallen. It is a condensation of his previous works on the Kennedy assassination, and a handy reference. Martin Luther King: The Assassination, a republication of the title Frame-Up (Outerbridge & Dienstfrey, 1971), is also now available by Carroll & Graf, although the original Frame-Up, in hardbound, is available by writing to Weisberg, and is better quality.

For the 81-year-old Weisberg, the publication of these works must be rewarding. Not because any financial gain he may receive, which is unknown and undependable, but because, as he stated to me in his home in March of this year, "Writing is what I like to do." He has, for the record, responded to the recent literature on the assassination, and set the record straight. Weisberg has kept the debate on this subject on a straight course with integrity, a useful commodity to all of us.

CASE OPEN:A CRITICAL REVIEW

by

Tom DeVries

Case Open: The Omissions, Distortions and Falsifications of Case Open by Harold Weisberg (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994), 178 pages. In Case Open, the widely respected and unofficial dean of JFK assassination researchers, Harold Weisberg, provides a strident near knock-out punch rebuttal to Gerald Posner and his book Case Closed. Fortunately, the 178 page Case Open is only part of a longer manuscript which will be available to researchers in the near future at an archives of Hood College, in Frederick, Maryland. Unfortunately, because of major readability problems, Case Open will be more interesting to researchers than to the general public and the media.[1]

For those able to overlook poor writing and the apparent bureaucratic and financial problems of poor editing and publishing which I'll address later in this review, Case Open does have a lot of meat on its small skeleton. First let's look at the main topics and themes of Case Open.

Weisberg states that Posner's book is made possible only by the claim that Rosemary Willis is reacting to gunfire at around Z-162. Weisberg implies but does not argue that there was not a shot fired around that time. Rather, he simply attacks Posner's use of sources, particularly his citation of David Lui writing in a 1979 edition of The Dallas Times Herald which

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